A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 21. 1711.

THIS is such an Age of Contradiction and Inconsistence, that I am far from being of the Opinion of some People, that the World improves, and that this Age has more Wit than their Ancestors, unless it be, that we grow Wiser and Wickeder together, and so make one Improvement of two—— In my last of this kind, I took Notice of a Thing, which I think is a publick Mischief, at least, a shameful abominable Practice, to the Scandal of the City it is practis'd in, and of the Authority that joins in it—— Indeed, I think, the Gentlemen that practise it, have given it a very proper Name, *viz.* A BIRDING, when the Roaring Lion goes Abroad in the Forest to seek his Prey, the People of those Countries say he is gone a Hunting, a civil Term for Ravageing the Country, and Devouring all he can come at: BIRDING is a pretty Country Exercise, wherein by all sorts of Art and Artifice, we destroy the poor fooliſh and harmless Fowls; it is true, indeed, the Thing is Lawful, because they were given for our Food, but there are abundance of Ways and Wiles, to draw the poor Creatures into our Lure, which seem to have something Ungenerous in them, and which some People cannot do; such as laying Food to entice them, and make the poor

Creatures pay their Lives for the Feaſt — Not altogether unlike a *Bridge-Houſe Treat*, where the poor C—y is drawn in to be drank to, and that's the fatal Signal.

The *Scots* Hiſtory tell us, how a Young Earl of *Douglas* was, with abundance of Promiſes and good Words, wheedled in, to come and Dine with the King in the Caſtle of *Edinburgh*, his Friends perſuaded him againſt it, but Fate, and his own Credulity prevail'd, and he came to the Dinner, where firſt the King drank to him, which was the Signal to uſher in a Diſh which had in it a Bull-Head with the Horns on, dreſs'd up—— This, it ſeems, was the Token of Death, and the poor Innocent Victim in vain crying out upon the King, for the Breach of Faith, was dragg'd from the Table to the Scaffold, and had his Head cut off, without any Mercy or Time given him—— I think, our *Bridge-Houſe* Feaſt ſomething like this, where the Citizens having on the Faith of Hoſpitality, waited upon the L—d M—r, to ſhew their Duty and Reſpect, are, (*I had almoſt ſaid perfidiouſly*) Sacrifiz'd to the BIRDING *Party* that attend, and the Treachery being firſt concerted, the L—d M—r gives the Signal, takes a Glaſs of Wine and drinks to the Man, that is, takes a Glaſs and ſhoots him; this Glaſs of Wine is the Bullet, the fatal Token of his Election, and that he is ſingl'd out to pay ..... Pounds, towards the City Occaſions.

Now, as in BIRDING, we ſhoot this or that Fowl, only becauſe they are FAT and in SEASON, rejecting others that we know are not fit to eat——So here is no View, *but that the Beaſt is FAT, and fit for the Spoilers*, and therefore *ſhoot him, my Lord!* And my Lord, who is but the City Gunner for the Day, fires at the Word of Command—— and Condemns his Fellow Citizens to be Worried by the Common H—ll, to the Tune of 430 *l. Sterl.*

I remember in former Days, when *Whigs* were Men of Senſe, *that knew* their own Priviledges, and *had Courage* to defend them, this Way of Drinking Men into the Chair of Magiſtracy, was *hiſs'd off the Stage*, and the Pretence of its being the Prerogative of the Chair was expos'd, *as it deſerv'd*, for the moſt Ridiculous Thing in the World— It was made appear to be a moſt abſurd upſtart Invaſion of the City Magiſtracy, upon the *Common-Hall*, that is, upon the Rights of the *Liverymen* of *London*: In ſeveral Ingenious, as well as pointed Tracts Written on that Subject, it was proved to be the undoubted Right of the *Livery Men* of *London* in *Common-Hall*, *&c.* to Chooſe two *Sheriffs* every *Midſummer-day*: When Sir *John Moor*, who was the firſt that made the Experiment, *of Drinking a Sheriff into the Chair*, impos'd upon the City in the Caſe of Mr. *Papillon* and *Dubois*, many that are alive now, and can remember it, aided and aſſiſted in that great Aſſembly, (perhaps the Greateſt that ever was before or ſince) to cry No CONFIRMATION, No CONFIRMATION, No *Lord-Mayor-Tyranny*, *&c.* ſo far did Right prevail, and the Zeal of the Citizens for their Legal well-known Privileges appear, that Sir *John Moor*, aſſiſted and ſupported by the *Court-Tyranny* of thoſe Days, was forc'd to carry on his new-invented Impoſition, by ſetting a Guard of Soldiers at the Hall Door, and ſuffering none to go in but their own Party; a Fact which was juſtly abhorr'd by the very Tories themſelves, and which was famous for this, that it Converted more Tories into Whigs, than any one Thing that had been done in Twenty Year before.

But *what ſhall we ſay now?* That this exploded Cuſtom has been reviv'd, even by the ſame Whigs, *to their ſhame be it ſpoken*, who condemn'd it with a loud Voice in Sir *John Moor*; nor could I be at a Loſs to Name you ſome Men, who then held up both their Hands for the juſt Liberties of the *Livery-Men* of *London*, and their Rights in Electing Sheriffs; that cried out as loud as their Neighbours, No *Confirmation*, No *Confirmation*; who have ſince ſat down *very quietly*, with the ſame ſenſeleſs Pretence, of Nominating a Sheriff by drinking, and then bring the common H——ll in to a Confirmation, without ſo much as a

Proteſt

Proteſt for preſerving the Rights of Election to the *Livery-Men* of the City.

So degenerate are the Whigs of this Day, from the Whigs of thoſe Days! and which I take for an infallible mark of this difference in their Circumſtances, *viz.* That THEN they were growing Ripe for *Deliverance*, and were Spirited for that Work, and that NOW they are ripe for *Deſtruction*, and are therefore Infatuated for *that Work*, *quos Jupiter vult perdere, hos dementat*.

And what think ye brought the Whigs of the laſt Age, into this ſo often condemned, and ſo juſtly exploded piece of K—y, truly the Caſe is plain, want of Silver, the Money, the Money, the ſame Vehicle which uſhers down, *like Poiſon under the Gilding of a Pill*, all manner of publick Villanies in the World?

I am told ſome are ſo Angry at the Freedom I uſe with them in this Matter, that tho' they own the Crime, yet they will not bear to be ſo plainly told of it, and therefore loudly Threaten the Author of the Reproof; *ſuch may uſe their Pleaſure with this Author, who is fully prepar'd for Martyrdome in ſo juſt a Cauſe*; and declares, that while ſuch publick, ſcandalous Practices are found among us, which Men can neither Juſtifie by the Laws of God, nor Man, which they cannot defend by their Conſtitution, or by their Conſciences——Which Reproach them as Men, as Citizens, as *Engliſh Men*, and as Chriſtians; it ſhall never be ſaid, that my Father's Son liv'd to ſee it, and fear'd to ſpeak it ——And therefore I profeſs to be ready, to Anſwer in any Place, Court or Seat of Judicature for what I have ſaid in this Matter.

Proteſting, 1ſt. That Drinking to (and pretending thereby a Right of Nominating, by my L—d M——r) any Perſon to be Sheriff, of this City, and that the Common Hall is only oblig'd to confirm that Choice, is ILLEGAL, Deſtructive of the Conſtitution, and an Invaſion of the Liberties and Privi-

ledges of the City of London, and of the *Livery Men* therein.

2. I Proteſt, That BIRDING, as now practis'd, *viz.* Singling Men out for Sheriffs, who are viſibly and manifeſtly unqualify'd or unlikely to hold the Office, and that, BECAUSE THEY ARE SO, with an *Intent only* to gain the Money which they ſhall pay as a Fine, is Unjuſt, an Invaſion of Property, taking their Money under a Form of Law, but contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of the Law, and is no leſs than a Civil kind of Robbery.

3. I Proteſt that I have a Right to make this Complaint, being born a Freeman, and for having been near 30 Years a *Livery-Man* of this City, and therefore Claim of Right to be concern'd in the Preſervation of the Priviledges of the ſaid City, having been twice Sworn to Maintain and Uphold the ſaid Priviledges; and *which Oath I thus Diſcharge*, believing all thoſe Perjur'd, or at leaſt Guilty of the Neglect of their Oath, and an Omiſſion of their Duty, who do not, like me, proteſt againſt theſe Corruptions and Invaſions, and to the beſt of their Power prevent them.

But why ſo hard upon your Friends, *ſaid an Old Whig to me, that I read this to before it was Printed?* Why ſhould you run ſo hard upon the Whigs in this Matter, ſince all Parties have a Hand it?——And this, I think, requires an Anſwer to Anticipate the like Queſtion after the Publication.

For my part, when I ſpeak of a publick Crime, I ſpeak without Partiality, and *tho' it is true*, that what there is of Cheat, Fraud, and Abominable Corruption in this Practice, is in common, and both Whig and Tory come into the Crime; yet ſo far as *the Whigs* have join'd in it, it is a double Crime in them, becauſe they ſo long called it a Crime in others, exploded and condemn'd the Practice before the Revolution, and yet have now, under a Revolution Government

vernment of upwards 20 Years, ſuffer'd themſelves to fall into that very Practice and not according to what they before own'd ought to be done, have Condemn'd it by ſome publick Act of the City, as well as by their own Example.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Juſt publiſh'd (many Thouſands of the former Editions having ſold in a little time.)

MR. *Marten*'s Seventh Edition of his Book and *Second Edition* of his *Appendix*, concerning *Secret Diſeaſes*, both compriz'd in *One Volume*, with *Amendments*, and many hundred Additions: It being the laſt he will ever write; and it is preſumed, contains as much any can write on that Subject, for the Benefit of *Patients*; all the Degres and Symptoms, Ways of Contracting, certain Signs diſcovering, Nature, Kinds, and Cure, being ſhewn; as alſo the Uſe and Abuſe of Mercury; Miſchiefs by Quacks, Effects of ill Cures, Seminal Weakneſſes, and all other Secret Infirmities in both Sexes relating to that Infection, &c. are from Reaſon and long Experience explicated and detected; neceſſary for the Peruſal of all that have, or ever had the leaſt Injury that Way, and value the Health and Welfare of themſelves and Poſterity; that Diſtemper, if not totally eradicated, proving dangerous as well as obnoxious. The whole interſpers'd with Preſcriptions, Obſervations, Hiſtories, Letters, and Proofs of many remarkable Caſes and Cures. By *John Marten*, Surgeon. Sold at his Houſe in *Hatton-Garden*; as alſo by *N. Crouch* in the *Poultry*, *A. Betteſworth* on *London-Bridge*, *P. Varrene* at *Seneca's Head* in the *Strand*, *C. King* in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, *M. Atkins* in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard, Booksellers, and *D. Leach* in the *Little Old Baily*. Pr. Bound 7 *s.* 6*d.*

QUACKERY Unmaſk'd; in 3 Parts, containing, 1. Reflections on the 7th Edition of Mr. *Martin*'s Treatiſe of the *Venereal Diſeaſe*. 2. An Examination of the *Charitable Surgeon*, The *Generous Surgeon*, The *Tomb* of *Venus*, and a pretended new Method of curing this Diſeaſe. 3. A brief Enquiry into the Ancient and preſent State of the Practices of Phyſick and Surgery; a full Account of *Quacks*; then (in a conciſe Method) is ſhewn the *Cauſe*, *Nature*, *Signs*, and Dangerous *Effects* of this *Diſeaſe*, various ways of *Receiving*, Symptomes firſt *Diſcovering*, and only Method of preventing its Infection; together with the beſt, moſt cheap, ſafe, ſpeedy, eaſie and private *Methods* of *Cure*. As alſo the *Cauſe and Cure of Old Gl..ts* in Men, and *Weakneſſes* in Women. The Second Edition Enlarg'd. Sold by *D. Brown* without *Temple-Bar*, *G. Strahan*, at the *Golden-Ball* in *Cornhill*, and *B. Barker*, in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, and by the Author, Dr. *Spinke*, at his Houſe at the *Golden-Ball*, 3 Doors directly paſt the *Sun-Tavern*, in *Milk-ſtreet Market*, *Cheapſide*. Price 2 *s.*

THE Carminative or Wind-expelling Lozenges; the prettieſt and moſt delightful Medicine for that purpoſe in the World, are exceeding pleaſant to taſte, breaks away Wind pent up in the Stomach and Bowels, that cauſe ſick Qualms, Dizzineſs in the Head, &c. *One put into the Mouth in a Morning, keeps Wind out of the Stomach, and exceeds all the Cordial Drams whatſoever: They diſpel Vapours, Stitchings, Gripings*, &c.. *rectifie the Digeſtion, cure Heart-burn, purifie the Blood, make the Head eaſie, and whole Body lightſome. Are Sold for* 2 *s.* 6*d. a Box with Directions, at the Golden Key in Warton's Court near Holborn Bars* (1)

Printed for and ſold by *John Baker* at the *Black-Boy* in *Pater-Noſter-Row*. 1711.